Invitation for Researchers

23–27 November 2026 | Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Babeș-Bolyai University | Organized by UBB TechTransfer

How could your research help solve a challenge that a company is facing today?

We invite you to join **Beyond the Lab: From Research to Impact – EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge Week for Researchers** and explore how your scientific expertise can make a difference beyond academia.

Working in interdisciplinary teams with researchers from across EUTOPIA, you will tackle real business and technology challenges proposed by companies from Cluj and the wider Transylvania region. The challenges span **STEAM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics**, with support from company mentors, technology transfer experts and business mentors.

Who should apply?
Researchers affiliated with **EUTOPIA universities** across STEAM disciplines who are curious about applying their scientific expertise beyond academia and working with colleagues from different backgrounds on company challenges.

Why apply?
This is an opportunity to apply your expertise to real company needs, learn from people outside your discipline and develop a proposal in direct collaboration with industry. Throughout the week, you will build practical skills and professional connections that could lead to future research partnerships.

What you will gain

- **Experience with real company challenges.** Apply your expertise to a concrete problem, develop a solution concept and identify the steps towards implementation.
- **Practical innovation and communication skills.** Develop a business plan, explore intellectual property and technology transfer options, and learn to deliver a persuasive pitch**.**
- **International connections.** Work with researchers from other EUTOPIA universities and meet company mentors who can offer insights into industry needs and potential collaborations.
- **Access to academic and industry expertise.** Visit relevant UBB laboratories, discover research infrastructure and learn directly from company specialists.

Preliminary programme

- **Day 1 · Monday afternoon, 23 November:** Discover the challenges
- **Day 2 · Tuesday, 24 November:** From problem to solution concept
- **Day 3 · Wednesday, 25 November:** From solution to business plan
- **Day 4 · Thursday, 26 November:** Build and practise your pitch
- **Day 5 · Friday, 27 November:** Demo Day — From challenge to collaboration

Discover Cluj — a vibrant, innovative and multicultural city

Spend a week in **Cluj-Napoca, a lively university city in the heart of Transylvania**, where rich cultural heritage meets academic research, entrepreneurship and industry. Beyond the programme, explore the historic streets, enjoy the city's cultural life and indulge your culinary curiosity with local flavours that reflect Transylvania's multicultural traditions.

Bring your curiosity and expertise and help your team develop solutions to real company challenges!

Interested in joining us?

Each EUTOPIA university will publish its own call for applications on its website.